

VPP: Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. Pullman achieves top recognition

Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. Pullman achieves top recognition for occupational safety and health as Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) STAR.

The Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) Pullman site invents, designs, develops, and manufactures products and provides services for the protection, monitoring, control, automation, and metering of electric power systems. On February 10, 2006, the Pullman site celebrated achieving the prestigious VPP STAR status at its their all-staff, globally telecast, weekly town-hall-style meeting and luncheon.



The company owns 130 acres on the north edge of Pullman with nine buildings and more than over 300,000 square feet of facilities. SEL provides a wide range of equipment and extensive services to protect, monitor, control, and communicate with electric power systems, generators, motors, transformers, and related apparatus worldwide globally. SEL is a world leader in the design and manufacture of control houses, panels, and fault indicators. Its products are in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Pictured in Photo (from left to right): SEL President Dr. Edmund O. Schweitzer, III, receives the VPP plaque from Mel James, Acting Senior Program Manager, WISHA Services.

Henry Garfield, Environmental Health and Safety Manager for the SEL Pullman site addressed the audience and thanked everyone for their commitment, ownership, and efforts to achieve this prestigious safety and health recognition. Mel James, Acting Senior Program Manager, WISHA Services, presented the VPP STAR flag and plaque for recognition as a VPP STAR site and addressed the audience on the leadership commitment, and employee involvement and cooperation that resulted in the quality of the site's safety and health programs. Edmund O. Schweitzer, III, Ph.D., SEL President received the flag and plaque, and commented on the great support that all employees contribute to safety and the company's core business.

VPP status is approved by WISHA Services for work-site applicants who have achieved outstanding safety and health programs. To date, only 1,500 sites nationally have achieved this elite VPP status. The SEL Pullman site was approved as a VPP STAR site on January 17, 2006 and is WISHA's 25th STAR site.



The SEL Pullman site, which employs 880 workers, earned its VPP STAR through commitment, leadership, and extensive employee participation in developing a continuously improving safety and health program and safety record. The site applied for the VPP recognition and received an on-site review by a team of six WISHA safety and health professionals. The site maintains its status by continuous improvement of its safety and health programs, conducting comprehensive annual self-evaluations and receiving a comprehensive on-site review every three years by WISHA staff.

Pictured in Photo (from left to right): SEL's Safety Committee receives the WISHA VPP STAR flag from WISHA staff.

The worksite's potential hazards associated with the manufacturing of products utilized in the monitoring and control of electric power systems include machinery with moving parts, electrical, and thermal energy, material handling, ergonomics, walking/working surfaces, confined spaces, high noise levels and chemicals. The site's three-year average injury/illness recordable rate and days away/restricted/transferred work incident rates are 44 percent below and 25 percent below the national average rate and similar industries rate, respectively.



WISHA's review team observed that SEL management and employees are committed to continuous improvements of the site's safety and health programs, which provide excellent protection from potential hazards at this worksite.

Picture: Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories and WISHA representatives with the VPP STAR flag.

For more information, contact Henry Garfield, Environmental Health and Safety Manager for the SEL Pullman site at 509-332-1890. For more information about WISHA's Voluntary Protection Program, in which WISHA and Washington companies work together to improve safety and health programs, call WISHA, [Kenneth Werenko](#), Safety and Health VPP Specialist, (360) 902-5515.



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